

2007 1/12TH OVAL WORLD STOCKCAR CHAMPIONSHIP

IT'S A SMALL OVAL WORLD



Above: Juggling tyre compounds and sizes is a tricky decision

Looking at the result, the first two were no surprise, however the same could not be applied to the next two as Carl Baker put in a performance of a lifetime and Lee Bishop just edged out John Gould for the last of the qualifying places, these were at the expense of a hugely disappointed Richard Harding who had somehow forgotten to change his cells, and the flying Lobith club member and Super Star grade racer Maikel Rutten. Maikel later told me he had been suffering with radio interference during this race, this could account for his demise.

Again no surprises in the first two as the reigning National Points Champion Ben Harding eased through into the next stage of the competition as had Clive Buckler, behind these two things were not so easy as it was very close between three racers with Tom Collins coming through towards the end to secure third place from Jamie Burkett who finished ahead of the current European Junior Champion Nicholas Cooper by the small margin of 1.70 seconds, this was very disappointing for Nicholas who looked to be going through to the next round until he had to make a quick pit stop to tighten up his rear wheel nuts.

QUARTER FINAL 2

1	B. Harding	87	302.04
2	C. Buckler	82	300.17
3	T. Collins	79	300.96
4	J. Burkett	78	300.03
5	N. Cooper	78	301.73
6	P. Riddell	68	302.39
7	M. Berendsen	61	300.29
8	E. Oliver	22	88.08

QUARTER FINAL 3

1	S. Tennent	93	300.56
2	A. Wyper	92	300.95
3	A. Day	86	301.22
4	S. Smith	86	301.48
5	M. Riley	84	303.05
6	N. Middelkoop	71	265.40
7	A. Harding	44	167.64
8	J. Cutts	0	0

Right: Michael Chilvers BRCA PRO was on hand to answer all the usual questions
Below: Into the first bend, Matthew leads Clive and Stuart but 3 sec laps meant it was fast close and frantic action



Once again the top two were predictable, and both Stuart Tennent and Anthony Wyper duly obliged as they took the first and second places, however unknown quantity Andy Day caused a big shock as he claimed third place and Stewart Smith eased through with the final qualifying place in fourth this at the expense of the former National Junior Points Champion Martin Riley and the former world junior champion Niek Middelkoop. And you have to feel sorry for Jon Cutts who never made it to the start line after the radio gear in his car had failed as they took to the track for the start of the race it late turned out to be both the receiver and a servo that had somehow failed.

Alex Wood secured a comfortable passage through into the next round and how close was it between the next three, all on the same lap separated by split times! Behind these three came David Smith who looked to be struggling to find the right set-up with his new race car that was built by Ben Harding, and once again Allan Inness suffered with a breakdown, this time his demise was caused by a broken speed controller.

Once again there was a small break as the two semi-finals was worked out, the formula for who went where was the qualifiers from the first quarter final would make up the grid for the first semi final with the qualifiers from the third quarter final, and the second one would be made up of the qualifiers from the second and the fourth quarter finals.

Now down to arguably the best sixteen racers in the world, and the competition was getting tougher, undoubtedly there would be some hard luck stories to be told, but the truth is only the top four from each semi final would make up the 2007 World Final line up, to find out who they are here are the results of the semi finals.

QUARTER FINAL 4

1	A. Wood	89	303.05
2	M. Cooper	85	300.41
3	M. Szabados	85	301.58
4	D. Cayzer	85	301.71
5	D. Smith	80	301.82
6	G. Fordham	80	302.19
7	J. Collins	50	300.63
8	A. Inness	3	25.24